

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-26, and 28-35 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 16, 24, 30, and 33 are independent. In the Office Action, claims 24-26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Panchul et al. (USPN 6,226,776). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states claims 1-10, 12-23, and 30-35 are allowed. Dependent claims 27-28 were rejected as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if written in independent form. Independent claim 24 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 27, and claim 27 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 24-26 and 28-29 are also believed to be allowable.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 24-26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Panchul et al. Claim 27, dependent on independent claim 24, was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but including allowable subject matter. Claim 27, dependent on independent claim 24, has been canceled and the features of claim 27 have been added to claim 24. Accordingly, claims 24-26 and 28-29 are also believed to be allowable.

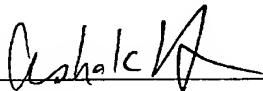
CONCLUSION

As all of the outstanding rejections have been traversed and all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowability. If the undersigned attorney can assist in any matters regarding examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Carter

Dated: June 2, 2004

By  _____

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